RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

# RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

OCTOBER 1987 *232 Ogden Avenue — Jersey City, N.J. 07307 — (201) 798-0493*

*RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL.*

## MEETING MINUTES

The September meeting of RNA was in a word'explosive'. The guest speaker was Fire Chief Mullins. The Chief agreed to attend the meeting to answer questions from neighborhood residents regarding the fire at 253-255 Ogden Ave. on Sat. Aug 22nd,in the early morning hours.

After listening to the tape recordings made at fire headquarters of all incoming calls, some residents were still concerned. There is a discrepency of about 20 minutes between the time neighbors say they called 911 to report the fire, and the first knowledge of the fire at fire headquarters. When some of those attending the meeting seemed reluctant to accept the time table as stated by the transcript of the tapes, a heated debate broke out between our own members. Chief Mullins was unable to dampen this particular "spark". So the membership vowed to question the police dept. concerning 911 procedure with regards to fire calls.

Once the "smoke" had cleared,the rest of the meeting was devoted to Riverview Park. Chuck Hollowell is heading a committee formed by the Friends & Neighbors of Riverview Park to work with Joan Earls and her dept. of leisure activities to effect some improvements in park conditions and equipment. Our plans for a demonstration in front of city hall on Sept. 10th, regarding this same park, were finalized by Dean Howell who is chairing another of the committees formed by the Friends & Neighbors of Riverview Park. Plans were also introduced for a civilian patrol, whose members will check on the park at all hours of the day and night. They will report any anti-social activities or behavior to the police dept. and to our own RNA hotline. They <u>will not</u> engage in confrontations.

If your are interested in any of these projects, or have something of your own you would like to work on with your neighbors help, please join us at the next meeting Tues. Oct. 13th, 7:30pm at the Harborview Health Care Center.

Secretary
Maria E Tuzzo

P.S. Refreshments for the Sept. meeting were provided by G. Bogdan, V.Rea, and M. Tuzzo Sr.

P.P.S. Don't forget the afghan tickets.

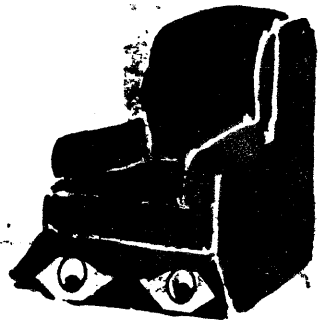
---

----NOTICE----

Anyone interested in joining the civilian patrol can call Mr Moloughney at 795-1532.

- - - - - -

The RNA hot-line is 795-3234 and should be used to report any calls you make to the police dept. Make note of the reason,time and date of all calls made to headquarters on the hot-line tape.



# Under the Chair

BAD NEWS: In one month there have been three fires in our neighborhood. The first was on August 22, at 251-253-255 Ogden Avenue. The second was an industrial fire at 2 Hope Street, in a property owned by Ponte paper-recycling company, on Sept. 14th. The third was on Sept. 25th in athree-familyresidence at 133 Ogden Avenue. These are three fires too many, as far as RNA is concerned. Because of the close proximity of our woodframe residential structures - we must be on constant guard against this everpresent danger. It is everyone's duty - tenant and owner to protect their own home and, in turn their neighborhood.

One important thing we can all do is to remember our Fire Dept.'s emergency telephone number: 963-2400. This is a direct line to report fire emergencies. Please, put this number in your directory and memorize it for your own safety. Another number to use is "0" for operator. These telephone operators are trained to handle emergencies and will stay with you until all the information is relayed to the Fire Dept. The last number to remember is 911 for the Police Dept. Whatever number you use, remember - THINK CALMLY AND GIVE ALL THE NECESSARY INFORMATION: LOCATION, TIME AND YOUR NAME. If possible get the name or number of the person you are talking to.

Footnote: Because of questions regarding the response time with the fire at 253 Ogden Ave., RNA has formally asked both the Fire and Police Depts. to investigate a possible break in communications between 911 and the Fire Dept. At our Sept. meeting, Fire Chief John Mullins defended the Fire Dept. in a hotly debated discussion concerning the response time.

GOOD NEWS: Since our last newsletter, a lot of positive things have happened in response to the campaign of the Friends and Neighbors of Riverview Park.

Sept.10 Demonstration: Over fifty friends and neighbors picketed outside City Hall protesting the deterierated conditions of our Park, specifically the lack of Police protection and inadequate maintenance programs. Vito Brunetti, acting as the spokesman, formally presented a list of demands and recommendations to the City Council. The Council created a City Commission made up of Councilmembers Hart, O'Reilly-Lando and Cunningham and representatives of the community to investigate the Park problems, report its findings and recommendations to the Council, and demand release of $57,000.00 in NIP funds for use in the Park. There have been two meetings of the Commission so far. The second one on Sept. 21st was held in the Mayor's office with Police Director Walter Adams, DPW Dir. Ron Buonocore, Dir. of Leisure Activities Jean Earls and Mayor aide Robert Ricci. Future meetings will be held with each individual director to discuss immediate and long term solutions to our problems.

Police: Since our petition of August 5th, the Police have responded to our problems by putting foot patrols, K-9 and scooters, undercover cars regularly in the Park. There have been arrests and summons issued. We only hope that this is not a temporary measure. In our meetings with Director Adams we will discuss long-term solutions to our problems, such as Park Police and a Park substation.

Con't. page 3

Under the Chair cont'd.

Repairs and Improvements: After six months of delay, work is completed and our Park pavilion finally has a new roof and ceiling. The pavilion also received a paint job to cover the graffitti. (The paint was donated by Novick Hardware store.) During the week of Sept. 21st, park benches and childrens' play equipment were installed in the north end of the Park on the west side of Ogden Avenue. The kids and residents immediately responded and used these facilities. We thank the DPW and Leisure Activities for these belated but much needed improvements in the Park. Future meetings with these depts. will focus on regularly-schedule maintenance programs for the facilities and natural elements throughout the year.

Citizen Activities: We have organized two citizen activities that we need volunteers for. The citizens' patrol - people to walk or drive around the Park and the surrounding neighborhood for a few hours a week. If they see anything suspicious or an actual crime being committed, they will call the Police. If your interested, please call Mike Mulcughney at 795-1532. The citizen hotline - in order to compile our own list of crime statistics, we have initiated our own hotline: 795-3234. After you have called the Police to report a crime, then call this number and leave the following information: date, time, crime and police operator number.

Sports In response to a lack of organized sports activities, we are currently sponsoring a basketball tournament this fall. We are also planning to set up a series of activities for next summer. If you are interested in participating, either as a player or referee, contact Chuck Hollowell, 963-5107.

Music Concerts: The City Council has appropriated $700.00 to pay for live music concerts in the Park pavilion. Unfortunately, the concerts scheduled for Sept. 13th and 20th were cancelled due to bad weather. As we go to press, we are making final preparations for our Family Day in Riverview Park on Sept. 27th. Events will include a picnic, games and contests, and a live music concert by the Alan Quinn Big Band.

Now that the City has finally begun to respond to our problems in the Park, we as citizens, both adults and children, must be responsible and take care of the Park. That means not littering, vandalizing, graffitting, or destroying property, then telling other people to do the same and finally informing the Police about these persons who disobey the law. Next month this column will talk about the specific laws governing the Park, in terms of alcohol, drugs, curfew, noise, etc.

(A word of thanks for the people who have organized this campaign to improve their neighborhood: Dean Howell, Chuck Hollowell and Chip Bolcik. More importantly, we should also thank all those concerned friends and neighbors who signed the original Park petition, who participated in the two August meetings held in the Park and who marched on City Hall to demand help. These are the people who made the difference - who made City Hall wake up and take responsibility for its job to protect and improve the lives of its citizenry.)

Comment: Since this successful campaign, several neighbors have noted how clean and safe the Park is becoming. They observe people sitting on the benches, walking their dogs, or just strolling through the Park. There are more children now playing on the grass, on the new equipment, and in the basketball court. People are saying that Riverview Park is beginning to feel like a real park - someplace to come, relax and enjoy the view. That, just about, says it all.

## CONRAD'S CORNER

Letter written to Governor Kean.

Short & Ford, a Princeton planning firm, making a feasibility study for the Jersey City Economic Development Corp. of Loew's Theatre in Jersey City, found the interior of the theatre in good shape. All it needs is a temporary patch on the roof and replacing the electrical panel board which could be done for the cost of the $208,000 cultural study made for the State.

Since the Loew's has State as well as National Historic designation, it is eligible for federal restoration funding to remove the temporary partitions in the auditorium and replace some seating which can be taken from the upper balcony.

A 1969 fortieth anniversary news report mentioned the secret of preparing the walls with a special scientific paint and plaster to achieve impeccabl perfect acoustic qualities, making the Loew's auditorium far superior to Avery Fisher Hall in Lincoln Center. Even Carnegie Hall with its eighty million dollar restoration has come down a few notches from its former acoustical qualities becasue the wrong paint was used in its restoration. Jehovah Witnesses, who did a superb job of restoring the Stanley Theatre in eight months, have offered to give us their advice and know-how to restore the Loew's.

It shouldn't take more than four million to put the theatre in first class shape which is a lot less than the two billion proposed for Newark's Cultural Center. Since the city was able to float 38 million in bonds for our school system in Jersey City; the County or City should easily be able to float a four million dollar bond issue for the Loew's Cultural Center.

As honorary Chairman of the Hoboken Chamber Orchestra, I think it would be a great feather in your cap to have the orchestra perform in an auditorium with better acoustics than any in Lincoln Center and in a theatre with direct underground connection to Path to avoid the muggings around Newarks Symphony Hall. All the Liberty Park concerts could be continued in the Lowe's throughout the year. The Garden State Symphony Orchestra, North Bergen Opera and many more supported by the State Council of the Arts will all be able to perform in the Loew's.

---

RIVERVIEW REVIEW...

**They walked determindly in their circle,in front of the steps leading to city hall. More than fifty people..carrying signs ...chanting slogans...No,they were not rabble-rousing trouble makers.They were the Friends & Neighbors of Riverview Park, long-standing, tax paying, concerned residents of Jersey City. Fed up with the lack of city services,in their heights community,they banded together and "marched on city hall".**

**They were orderly,neat,and dedicated. Determined to get a response from the mayor,the city council, the police dept.,the public works dept.,and any other city agency that can provide the services that they feel are their due as citizens of this city.**

**These marchers have a goal. That goal is to make Riverview Park a safe place...drug and crime free. A place for the young,old and all ages between to use without fear. While the focal point is Riverview Park,it is just a symbol of the larger problem in our city. The problem being,that the residents of this city are not getting the proper police protection,sanitation**



Con't. page 5

services, recreational services etc., that are needed to maintain a decent level of existence.

So the friends and Neighbors of Riverview Park took-up their hand made signs and tuned up their chanting voices to serve notice to the city officials that the "promise now, don't deliver later" form of city government can no longer be tolerated. The group let it be known that they will no longer accept the standard "we're doing the best we can" answer. They want better than that for themselves and their neighbors. They deserve better!

They care about this city and are willing to work to achieve their goal.

The nine members of the city council heard the chants and read the signs. The council has been given the opportunity to make a move.

For the sake of all let's hope the move is a positive one.

The Editor

---

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES:

WEATHERWISE ENERGY GUIDE

Once again, Jersey City Dept. of Human Resources' Energy Division is offering various programs aimed at assisting residents of Jersey City with the rising cost of utility bills. Programs offered are as follows:

1. SEAL-UP AND SAVE - Public Service installs up to $200 worth of energy-saving materials in homes and apartments of low-income families. This free service includes a water heater wrap, low-flow shower head, and plastic storm windows, plus caulking and weatherstripping for your doors and windows.

2. LIFELINE CREDIT - A utility assistance program that offers a benfit of $225 to people who are at least 65 years of age, and certain disabled persons who qualify.

3. S.C.I.P. - Each year, the Dept. of Human Resources coordinates the Supplemental Crisis Intervention Program, which offers free blankets and clothing to residents of Jersey City who meet income guidelines.

4. H.E.A.P. - The Home Energy Assistance Program provides financial aid in meeting the rising cost of utility bills. Eligibility is based on total income per household.

5. PUBLIC SERVICE SHUT-OFF - If you are having a problem with your utility bill and are facing possible shut-off by Public Service, call our office. We could be the difference between getting shut off and working out a plan with Public Service.

6. SENIOR SAVE - If you are a Senior Citizen, on Lifeline Credit, you are automatically eligible for Senior Save. Senior Save includes weatherproofing services and energy-saving materials. All this absolutely free!

7. ATTIC INSULATION - We are conducting a Low-Income Direct Weatherization Program of up to $750 worth of attic/cap insulation in the homes of income-eligible customers throughout PSE&G's service territory. This service will be provided at no cost to customers qualified to participate in the program.

For more information, contact the Energy Division, Human Resources, Monday through Friday, 9AM-4PM:

Gary Defilippo, energy coordinator

547-5855

547-5892

---

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Maria Tuzzo

Art/Designing: Raquel Sweeny

Staff Writers/Contributors: Marie "Dee" Ipsaro, Kathy Brennan, Carin Lewis, Maria Tuzzo, Edith Springer, Raquel Sweeny

Circulation: Mrs. Marie Tuzzo

Editorial Consultant: Vito Brunetti

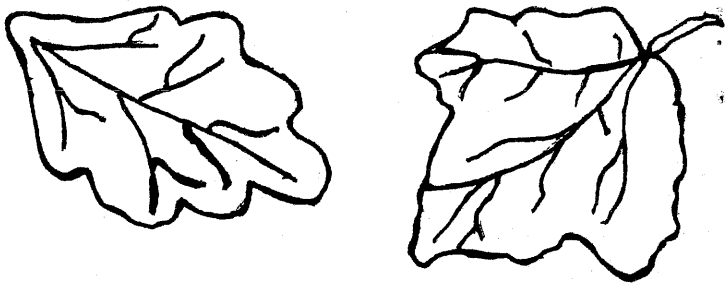
In response to some complaints from local residents, we have written this letter to the Division of Traffic Engineering.

Letter...

Riverview Neighborhood Assoc. would like to bring to your attention a traffic problem on the corner of Cuneo Place and Palisade Avenue.

Because of the recent street-direction change and the increased traffic flow, local residents think a traffic light is necessary at this corner to avoid pedestrian and vehiclar accidents.

We ask you to investigate this problem and report back to our organization your findings.



## HARBORVIEW FALL PARTY

**As is our custom, RNA will sponsor a FALL HARVEST PARTY for the residents of the Harborview Health Care Facility. Three possible Friday dates are November 6, 13, or 20. We need volunteers to cook dietetic goodies, others to serve and entertain the residents. Please contribute your time and energy to this worthy event. Please call** 659-2245

## COUNTY CANDIDATES AT OCTOBER MEETING TO DISCUSS ISSUES

**At our next RNA meeting, Oct. 13th, both candidates for the office of Hudson County executive will appear, Democrat Robert Janiszewski and Republican Tom Hart. Both men will speak and answer questions about their campaigns and the role of county government. Come and find out what these two men have to offer. It will help you in making a meaningful decision for the November election.**

. . . . . .

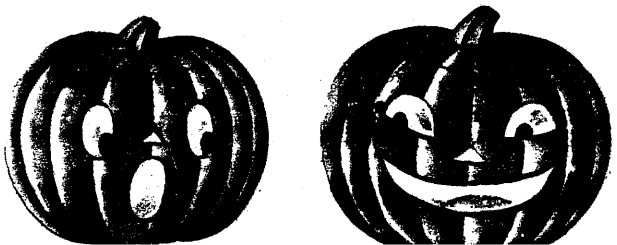
**The October R.N.A. meeting will have a guest speaker, Dr. Doris Molina. The topic of discussion; Drug abuse in todays society and accidental poisoning in the home. The October meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13th, at the Harborview Health Care Center at 7:30pm.**

## HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Jersey City Human Rights Commission will begin its TEL-RIGHTS PROJECT on September 30, 1987. Under this program, any citizen will be able to obtain timely information concerning their Human Rights problems, by callin the Tel-Rights telephone numbers: 547-4877 and 547-5081.

Areas covered include discrimination in housing, public accommodations and employment. Also problems with education, police brutality, fair credit reports, and equal rights for women, the aged and the handicapped.

TEL-RIGHTS will be in operation Monday to Friday from 9AM to 4PM.



# CITY HALL

## PROTEST DEMONSTRATION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1987

FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS OF RIVERVIEW PARK

# FAMILY DAY & CONCERT IN RIVERVIEW PARK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1987

## FAMILY DAY A SUCCESS

Family Day was held Sunday, Sept. 27th, at Riverview Park. After two postponements because of bad weather, Mother Nature gave her approval of the event by giving us a beautiful day.

About fifty adults and children arrived in the early afternoon for the picnic and games part of the day. There were volleyball, basketball, and wiffle ball games for the children supervised by Chuck Hollowell. Certificates were awarded to all the participants.

As the hour for the concert approached, more people came; some occupying the new benches and others carrying their own chairs. Children and adults also sat together on blankets in front of the pavilion to listen to the Big Band music of the 30's and 40's. played by the Alan Quinn Big Band.

Some brave couples got up to dance and the band gave prizes to the three couples who were first on the "concrete" dance floor for the cha-cha. The first couple to receive a prize was Isabell Fragoso and Pedro Garcia. Isabell and Pedro also did a marvelous exhibition dance of the merengue. This couple was visiting a neighborhood resident and came out to listen to the music and enjoy the park.

The entire days events were part of Heights Pride Week and was sponsored by the Friends and Neighbors of Riverview Park. All in all, about 150 adults and 75 children spent the day in Riverview Park enjoying the entertainment and the lovely weather. This was the first such event in Riverview Park - the first of many, if the enthusiasm of Sunday's crowd was any indication. Hooray for Family Day! May there be many more!

And thanks to the City Council, to Vito Brunetti, Dean Howell and all the Friends and Neighbors of Riverview Park for making it possible.

## COLUMBIAN GALLERY

192 Palisade Ave.
(next to Christ Hospital)
653-5746

If you're looking for gifts with an unusual flavor, this newest addition to our neighborhood is the place to come.

The Columbian Gallery offers an array of gifts with old world charm. They have beautiful glassware, rugs, planters, cards, jewelry, wind chimes and other unusual handcrafts. There are items both from Europe and from South America. Even if you don't wish to make a purchase, stop in to see Francisco Sanclemente, who will give you a tour of this charming place.

Perhaps the items I found most charming were the wall hangings; some made from cloth and other from corn husks and other material that we would normally throw away. The imagination used to create these masterpieces will certainly cause you to think of what we could be doing but somehow we never have the time. You may want to see this just to get an idea of how you could spend an afternoon with the kids and enjoy creating your own masterpiece.

## CONFETTI PASTA SALAD

2 Cups cooked linguine
1/2 Cup mayonnaise
2 tsps. Dijon mustard
1/4 Cup chopped green onions
1/4 Cup sliced radishes
1/2 Cup diced lean ham
1/2 Cup diced Swiss cheese
1 hard-boiled egg, chopped

Prepare linguine according to directions on package. Mix mayonnaise and mustard together, folding into warm linquine. Add other ingriedients. (Serves 4 to 6)

S.P.O.C.

The St. Paul of the Cross theater players will present ANNIE in four performances. They will be held at the church hall on Sherman Ave. The mantinee shows will be at 2:00 p.m., Sun., Oct. 18th and 25th. The evening shows will be given on Tues., Oct.20th and Thurs., Oct. 22nd at 7:30p.m. Tickets are $8,00 for adults and $7.00 for children and senior citizens.

Ghost

Walking through the park
I sense a difference in the breeze
the way it passes through my hair
gently fingering the strands
softly caressing the neck--then,
I think back to this morning
when in the empty apartment
I sat hypnotized by this force
now it's taken over
it's in every breath
it walks around me in circles
invisible touches awakening its
presence--suddenly. I remember
that repetitious dream
where I am dressed in a gown
that engulfs me, it is you.

Alice Soto - 1987

# Guess Who We Grew Up To Be ?

A member of our neighborhood association--can you name him? Unscramble letters for answer.

HOOREETD ERCNAO

## MIND – TEASER

**What man's name is formed by using the first letter of five consecutive months?**

Answer to Mind – teaser:

Jason

Raquel

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307

RNA

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JERSEY CITY, N.J.
07302
PERMIT NO. 153
CAR.-RT. PRESORT

# RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Vito Brunetti
*Chairman*

Bob Lewis
*Vice-Chairman*

Maria Tuzzo
*Secretary*

Randy Sanford
*Treasurer*

Jack Rea
*Sgt. at Arms*

Theodore Conrad
*Historical Advisor*

COMMITTEES:

COMMUNITY AWARENESS:
*Carin Lewis*

CRIME:
*George Graul*

ENVIRONMENT:
*Anne Hart*

TRAFFIC:
*Michael Cioffi*

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:
*Randy Sanford*